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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-13 ISO-00 SR-02 H-03 SCA-01 INRE-00

SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00

PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 DODE-00 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 5852

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4590

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, SREF

SUBJ: FOREIGNERS IN CHILE

REF: STATE 190545

1. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH UNHCR REP HASELMAN AFTERNOON SEPT 25. HASELMAN STATED THAT HE "OPTIMISTIC" PROBLEMS RELATING TO REFUGEES WILL BE SOLVED AND THAT GOC COOPERATING WITH "BEST WILL." WHILE NOT WISHING TO SPEAK OFFICIALLY FOR ICRC, HASELMAN DID STATE THAT GOVT BEING EQUALLY COOPERATIVE WITH THAT ORGANIZATION. HE BELIEVES ICRC REPS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW DETAINEES WITHOUT WITNESSES PRESENT AS PROMISED BY GOC AND HAVE ALSO BEEN ALLOWED TO DEAL WITH FOOD AND SHELTER CONCERNS OF DETAINEES IN NATIONAL STADIUM. AMCONSUL HAS SEEN ICRC REPS AS WELL AS CHILEAN RED CROSS REPS OPERATING WITHIN STADIUM.

2. AFTER A MEETING WITH HASELMAN SEPT 24, FONMIN HUERTA ISSUED COMMUNIQUE REAFFIRMING CHILE'S ADHERENCE TO 1951 CONVENTION AND 1967 PROTOCOL ON STATUS OF REFUGEES, AND ACCEPTING UNHCR OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS RELATING TO REFUGEES. COMMUNIQUE DECLARED (A) ALL REFUGEES WHO HAVE ENTERED COUNTRY IN "REGULAR" FASHION AND WHO ARE NOT IMPLICATED IN CRIMES ARE
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FULLY PROTECTED AND HAVE RIGHT TO REMAIN; (B) REFUGEES WHO HAVE

COMMITTED CRIMES IN CHILE WILL BE TRIED HERE, BUT IF ORDERED EXPELLED WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AGAINST THEIR WILL; AND (C) ALL REFUGEES IN "IRREGULAR SITUATION" WILL RECEIVE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE "TO NORMALIZE" THEIR R SITUATION IN CHILE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. HASELMAN GAVE IMPRESSION THAT MOST MF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GOC OFFICIALS - HE SCHEDULED TO MEET 5:00 PM SEPT 25 WITH MININTERIOR - HAVE BEEN IN REGARD TO ESTABLISHING NORMS FOR REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF REFUGEES IN "IRREGULAR STATUS," AND CREATING "LCLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE" SO THAT REFUGEES - MANY OF WHOM IN HIDING - WILL BE ABLE TO COME FORTH TO DO SO.

4. OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT GOC PROCEEDING ALONG LINES ESTABLISHED IN LAST WEEK REGARDING DETAINEES - THAT IS INTER-ROGATION AFTER WHICH DECISION IS MADE WHETHER TO DETAIN FURTHER OR RELEASE. MEDIA REPORTS APPROXIMATELY 300 INDIVIDUALS RELEASED FROM NATIONAL STADIUM SEPT 24. RAUL CARDINAL SILVA, ARCHBISHOP OF SANTIAGO VISITED STADIUM SAME DAY, LISTENED TO PRISONERS COMPLAINTS ABOUT SLOW PROCESS AND URGED THEM TO BE PATIENT. AMCONSUL CONTINUES EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF DETAINED AMERICANS.

5. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL (BARROS - CHIEF OF PROTOCOL) TOLD EMBOFF AS "OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF GOC POLICY" AFTERNOON SEPT 25 THAT CHILE "IS KEEPING ALL EXTERNAL PROMISES" AND THAT SAFE CONDUCTS WILL BE EVENTUALLY GIVEN TO ALL FOREIGNERS SEEKING ASYLUM OR REFUGE IN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WHETHER THE MISSION IS A SIGNATOR OR NOT OF INTERAMERICAN ASYLUM TREATY. BARROS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME CASES STILL UNDER STURV AND THAT GOVT NOT OBLIGED TO GRANT SAFE CONDUCTS "IMMEDIATELY." HE NOTED CASE OF ASYLEES HAVING TO WAIT AS MUCH AS TWO MONTHS FOR SAFE CONDUCTS UNDER ALLENDE ADMINISTRATION. BARROW ALSO REFERRED TO NUMEROUS REFUGEES WHO HAVE ALREADY LEFT AND STATED FOUR PLANELOADS HAVE GONE TO MEXICO AND ONE EACH TO VENEZUELA AND URUGUAY.

6. SOURCES IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY SOMEWHAT UPSET BY SLOWNESS OF GRANTING SAFE CONDUCTS. SITUATION PARTICULARLY CRITICAL
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IN SOME LATIN EMBASSIES WHICH HAVE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF CHILEAN AND FOREIGN ASYLEES IN CRAMPED QUARTERS. ONE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE (COLOMBIA FIRST SECRETARY) INDICATED GOV T "STALLING" ON ISSUE. NUNCIO HAS CALLED MEETING OF CHIEFS OF MISSION SEPT 26 REPORTEDLY TO DISCUSS REFUGEE AND ASYLUM ISSUES.

7. UNHCR REP HASELMAN TOLD BY EMBOFF OF GREAT INTEREST IN U.S. IN REFUGEE ISSUE, HOWEVER SENATE COMMITTEE NOT SPECIFICALLY

MENTIONED. WHILE IT MAY BE PRESUMED THAT HASELMAN REALIZED THAT HIS REMARKS MIGHT RECEIVE FURTHER DISSEMINATION, DEPT MAY WISH NOT TO REFER TO HIM BY NAME IN OPEN SESSION. IT MIGHT HOWEVER BE POINTED OUT THAT EMBASSY OFFICER HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HIM AND THAT AMB DAVIS HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO MEET WITH UNHCR REP AS SOON AS HASELMAN'S SCHEDULE PERMITS.

8. RE FREEDOM OF CHILEANS TO LEAVE COUNTRY, DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS WHICH ALREADY COMPLEX UNDER ALLENDE REGIME UNDOUBTEDLY MORE STRICT UNDER PRESENT NATIONWIDE STATE OF SIEGE.

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